GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3922
ANSWERED ON:23.12.2015
Rail Connectivity to J&K border Regions
Senguttuvan Shri Balasubramaniam

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways has any plan to provide rail connectivity to Leh and Ladhakh region of Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the feasibility studies have been completed in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof including the project cost, the source of funds and the time frame by which the projects would be accomplished?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
(SHRI MANOJ SINHA)

(a) to (d): A Reconnaissance Engineering-cum-Traffic (RET) survey for Bilaspur-Kullu-Manali-Leh (498 km) new line has been completed. The cost of the project was assessed at approx. Rs.32,739 Crores (at 2013 price level). The project has been identified as a strategic line by Ministry of Defence. As this strategic line is proposed in Himalayan region, to have a reasonably accurate cost estimate, Final Location Survey has to be carried out along with detailed Geological and Geotechnical studies, etc. Ministry of Railways has requested Ministry of Defence to convey approval to carry out Final Location Survey at a cost of Rs.157.72 Crores and provide the necessary funds. The time of completion and cost cannot be ascertained till completion of the Final Local Survey and detailed geo-technical studies.

To assess the feasibility and viability of another rail connectivity in Ladakh region, a survey of Srinagar-Kargil-Leh (430 km) new line has been taken up. Survey requires interaction with various departments of State Government, District Administrations, Trade and Industries, etc. for assessment of traffic projections. It also involves preparation of plan, drawing, calculation of cost, rate of return, etc. Since this is an extensive exercise, no time frame has been fixed for completion of this survey.
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